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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,102	01/31/2002	Steven Teig	SPLX.P0106	6032
23349	7590	02/17/2004		
STATTLER JOHANSEN & ADELI P O BOX 51860 PALO ALTO, CA 94303			EXAMINER GARBOWSKI, LEIGH M	
			ART UNIT 2825	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/066,102	TEIG ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Leigh Marie Garbowski	2825	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:  
         1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
         2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
         3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
     a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                 | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____   |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)        | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 6-9 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scepanovic et al. [U.S. Patent #5,578,840].

As per claim 1, Scepanovic et al. disclose an IC layout comprising a first set of Steiner points that are in shape of a non-quadrilateral polygon [column 7, lines 39-42]. As per claims 6-7, Scepanovic et al. further disclose wherein the polygon is a hexagon, has six equal sides [figure 2]. As per claim 8, Scepanovic et al. further disclose a) a set of nets with routable elements [column 6, lines 57-59]; b) a first set of interconnect lines for connecting routable elements of the nets, wherein the interconnect lines have ends that are partial non-quadrilateral polygons [column 7, lines 39-42]. As per claim 9, Scepanovic et al. further disclose wherein the interconnect line ends are half non-quadrilateral polygons [column 7, lines 39-42]. As per claim 12, Scepanovic et al. disclose an IC layout comprising a first set of Steiner points, wherein each Steiner point in the first set has a circular shape [column 7, lines 39-42; column 8, lines 30-36]. As per claim 13, Scepanovic et al. further disclose a second set of Steiner points, wherein each Steiner point in the second set has a non-circular shape [column 6, lines 57-59; column 8, lines 30-42]. As per claims 14-15, Scepanovic et al. further disclose a) a set of nets with routable elements [column 6, lines 57-59]; b) a first set of interconnect lines

for connecting the routable elements of the nets, wherein the interconnect lines have ends that are partially circular, semi-circular [column 8, lines 30-42].

Claims 1-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rostoker et al. [U.S. Patent #5,822,214].

As per claim 1, Rostoker et al. disclose an IC layout comprising a first set of Steiner points that are in shape of a non-quadrilateral polygon [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claims 2-3, Rostoker et al. further disclose wherein the polygon is an octagon, has eight equal sides [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claim 4, Rostoker et al. further disclose a second set of Steiner points that have a diamond shape [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claim 5, Rostoker et al. further disclose a third set of Steiner points that have a rectangular shape [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claims 6-7, Rostoker et al. further disclose wherein the polygon is a hexagon, has six equal sides [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claim 8, Rostoker et al. further disclose a) a set of nets with routable elements [column 77, lines 35-36, 66-column 78, line 6]; b) a first set of interconnect lines for connecting routable elements of the nets, wherein the interconnect lines have ends that are partial non-quadrilateral polygons [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claims 9-11, Rostoker et al. further disclose wherein the interconnect line ends are half non-quadrilateral polygons, half octagons and the Steiner points are octagons, half hexagons and the Steiner points are hexagons [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claim 12, Rostoker et al. disclose an IC layout comprising a first set of Steiner points, wherein

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each Steiner point in the first set has a circular shape [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claim 13, Rostoker et al. further disclose a second set of Steiner points, wherein each Steiner point in the second set has a non-circular shape [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58]. As per claims 14-15, Rostoker et al. further disclose a) a set of nets with routable elements [column 77, lines 35-36, 66-column 78, line 6]; b) a first set of interconnect lines for connecting the routable elements of the nets, wherein the interconnect lines have ends that are partially circular, semi-circular [column 18, lines 22-29; column 86, lines 48-58].

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leigh Marie Garbowski whose telephone number is 571-272-1893. The examiner can normally be reached on days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Smith can be reached on 571-272-1907. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2800.



**LEIGH M. GARBOWSKI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**